

CLAIMS

1. A liquid filter apparatus, such as a cooking oil and/or fat filter apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

5 a filter means;

at least one filter support means, wherein, in use, at least one seal is formed between the filter means and the filter support means by a liquid being filtered.

10 2. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one seal is provided by virtue of the liquid adhering to the at least one of the filter support means and/or filter means and providing the at least one seal through viscous tension.

15 3. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the filter apparatus further comprises cup means for receiving matter from a liquid being filtered, in use.

20 4. A liquid filter apparatus, such as a cooking oil and/or fat filter apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

a filter means; and

25 a cup for receiving matter from a liquid being filtered, in use.

5. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the filter means and cup comprise a single cup and filter body.

30 6. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein the filter means and cup are integrally formed in a single filter body.

7. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 5 or 6, wherein the cup and filter body comprises a sheet form member optionally including pleats.

5 8. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the sheet form member is made from a material having filtering properties.

10 9. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 3, claim 4 or any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein the cup comprises at least one annular cup means.

15 10. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 3, claim 4 or any one of claims 5 to 9, wherein the cup comprises a plurality of cup means.

20 11. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 3, claim 4 or any one of claims 5 to 10, wherein the cup comprises a plurality of substantially concentric annular cup means.

25 12. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claims 1 to 3, claim 4 or any one of claims 5 to 11, wherein the filter means is made from a cellulose fabric.

13. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claims 1 to 3, claim 4 or any one of claims 5 to 11, wherein the filter means is made from polyester.

30 14. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 3, claim 4 or any one of claims 5 to 13, wherein a suction side surface of the cup comprises an annular receiving space.

15. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 4 or any one of claims 5 to 14, further comprising filter support means.

5 16. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claims 1 to 3 or claims 5 to 14 or claim 15, wherein the filter support means comprises a substantially rigid body having an inner surface which at least in part closely fits with a discharge side surface of the filter means.

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17. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 or claims 5 to 14 or claim 15 or 16, wherein the filter support means comprises at least one annular portion.

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18. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 or claim 15 or claims 16 or 17, wherein the filter support means comprises a plurality of substantially concentric annular portions.

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19. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or claims 5 to 14 or claim 15 or claims 16 to 18, wherein the filter support means is manufactured from a high temperature resistant material which is
25 suitable for use with food products.

20. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or claim 4 or claim 15 or claims 16 to 19, further comprising inlet means for delivery of unfiltered
30 liquid to the filter means, and outlet means for removal of filtered liquid from the filter means.

21. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the inlet means is above the filter means, when in situ, and the outlet means is below the filter means.

5 22. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the inlet means is above the filter means, when in situ, and the outlet means is above the filter means.

10 23. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 22, wherein the cup and filter body have a side cross-section in the shape of a "W".

15 24. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claims 1 to 3, claim 4 or any one of claims 5 to 22, wherein the filter means has a side cross-section in the shape of a "V".

20 25. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 23, wherein the single cup and filter body has a side cross section in the shape of a plurality of "V"s.

25 26. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the single cup and filter body has a side cross section in the shape of at least four "V"s.

30 27. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, claim 5 to 14 or claim 15 or claims 16 to 26, wherein the filter support means has a side cross-section in the shape of a "W".

28. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, claims 5 to 14 or claim 15 or claims 16 to

26, wherein the filter support means has a side cross-section in the shape of a "V".

5 29. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 27, wherein the filter support means has a side cross-section in the shape of a plurality of "V"s.

10 30. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 23, wherein the single cup and filter body comprises a first frusto-conical portion and a second frusto-conical portion, the first frusto-conical portion being provided within the second frusto-conical portion, the second frusto-conical portion being inverted relative to the first frusto-conical portion, a narrow end of the
15 first frusto-conical portion being joined with a wide end of the second frusto-conical portion.

20 31. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 22, wherein the single cup and filter body comprises first, second, third and fourth frusto-conical portions, the frusto-conical portions being provided one within the other, the second and fourth frusto-conical portions being inverted relative to the first and third frusto-conical portions, one end of one frusto-conical
25 portion being joined with an adjacent end of an adjacent frusto-conical portion.

30 32. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 31, wherein the single cup and filter body is substantially symmetrical about every plane extending through a central axis thereof.

33. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 22, wherein the single cup and filter body is in the form of a cone.

5 34. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 22, wherein the single cup and filter body is in the form of a cone has been partially inverted to define a "W" cross-sectional shape, such that a single annular cup is provided.

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35. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the cone is partially inverted such that a lower edge of the cone, is aligned with an upper edge thereof.

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36. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 35 when dependent on any one of claims 1 to 3, claims 5 to 14, claim 15 or any of claims 16 to 19, wherein the filter support means provides means to transport filtered liquid from a discharge side of the filter means to the outlet means.

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37. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the transport means comprises a plurality of apertures in the filter support means.

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38. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the transport means comprises a plurality of channels provided or formed on a surface of the filter support means.

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39. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, claim 4 or claims 5 to 38, further comprising means for detachably attaching the filter means thereto.

40. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 39 when dependent on claim 20 when dependent on claims 1 to 3 or claim 15, wherein the detachable attachment means
5 comprises means for releasably connecting the filter support means to the inlet means and outlet means.

41. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the releasable connection means comprises a quick
10 release coupling.

42. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 20 or claims 21 to 41 when dependent upon claim 20, wherein the inlet means includes a rotary coupling.
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43. A liquid filter apparatus as claimed in claim 20 or any one of claims 21 to 42, wherein the outlet means includes a rotary coupling.

20 44. A filter device or apparatus, wherein, in use, a seal is formed between a filter means and a filter means support by a liquid being filtered.

25 45. A filter device or apparatus having a cup means for receiving, in use, matter from a liquid being filtered.

46. A filter means or cup for use in a filter apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 45.

30 47. A filter support means for use in a filter apparatus according to claims 1 to 3, claims 5 to 14, claim 15 or any of claims 16 or 4 to 43, or claims 44 or claim 45.

48. An apparatus, such as a cooking apparatus, the apparatus comprising a filter apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 45.

5 49. An apparatus, such as a cooking apparatus as claimed in claim 48, comprising a commercial cooking apparatus adapted for use in a food outlet, restaurant or other food retail premises.

10 50. An apparatus, such as a cooking apparatus as claimed in claim 48, adapted for use in a factory or other commercial food preparation premises.

15 51. An apparatus, such as a cooking apparatus as claimed in claims 48, 49 or 50, comprising a frying machine or deep fat/oil fryer.